

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system for reducing a bit error rate, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of known dummy bits; and

inserting, before channel coding, the plurality of known dummy bits in a non-terminating fashion at predetermined bit positions in a primary data bit stream on both sides of information-carrying bits;

wherein the method is applied to a systematic code, the dummy bits not being transmitted in code bits.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 16, the method further comprising the step of forming a code with a relatively low rate from a code with a relatively high rate via the insertion of the known dummy bits.

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim ~~18~~ 16, wherein the code bits are subsequently punctured.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 16, the

method further comprising the step of subjecting the information-carrying bits of the primary data bit stream to classification of their significance into at least two classes, wherein the dummy bits are inserted near the information-carrying bits which carry information to a significant degree.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the method is applied in a mobile telephone system.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the method is applied for transmission of voice signals.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the method is applied to a convolutional code.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 19, the method further comprising the step of carrying out a path selection, at a receiver end, within a framework of a Viterbi algorithm, based on the protected data bit stream, a resemblance between the process data bit stream and the protected data bit stream being checked in each case at locations of the dummy bits and the respective path being rejected in the case of non-correspondence.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 24, the method further comprising the step of decoding the protected data bit stream as source-controlled channel decoding via one of an Apri-Viterbi algorithm and a MAP algorithm.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 24, the method further comprising the steps of:

adding an Apriori-L value of an information bit to a soft input value of the corresponding systematic code bit for a recursive, systematic convolutional code; and
effecting decoding via a conventional Viterbi algorithm.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A device for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system for reducing a bit error rate, the device comprising a coder for inserting previously known data bits at predetermined bit positions of a primary data bit stream to be coded-, and a classification device for classifying a significance of the information bits of the primary data bit stream, an output of the classification device being connected to a controller for controlling the insertion of the known data bits.

Claim 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (previously presented): A device for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 27, wherein for decoding information bits via a Viterbi algorithm, the device further comprises:

a sequencing control unit for controlling checking of a plurality of paths for the received data bit stream;

a comparator unit for checking the data bit streams which are processed via a plurality of paths, by reference to the positions and values of the dummy bits; and

a decision unit, connected to an output of the comparator unit, for rejecting or approving the path assigned to the respectively tested data bit stream as a result of the comparison.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A device for providing error protection for a data bit stream in a digital telecommunications transmission system as claimed in Claim 27, further comprising a source-controlled channel decoder for executing one of an Apri-Viterbi algorithm and a MAP algorithm.